

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

RICK PERRY GOVERNOR

December 23, 2009

The Honorable Bob Riley Governor State of Alabama State Capitol 600 Dexter Avenue Montgomery, Alabama 36130-2751

Dear Governor Riley:

As of this writing, it appears the federal health care bill will be pushed through the U.S. Senate and passed into law. This legislation will likely result in higher health care costs and a reduced quality of care for all American families, as well as major budgetary hardships for all states, except a select few.

It has been reported that in the effort to pull together enough votes in support of this bill, Majority Leader Harry Reid made a deal to secure the vote of Nebraska Senator Ben Nelson. As a result, Nebraska will be exempt from increased Medicaid costs resulting from this bill's passage.

In Texas, this health care bill will cost up to \$21 billion over the next 10 years, adding an estimated 2 million more people to our Medicaid rolls.

Now, in addition to unprecedented federal mandates to purchase health care coverage or face penalties, taxpayers in Texas and in your state will be paying even more to subsidize expanded Medicaid for Nebraska and a few other states — but most likely not yours — that caught additional sweeteners on issues like rural health care and Medicare Advantage for some seniors.

As the chief executive officers of our individual sovereign states, we must stand up to this unprecedented intrusion into our lives and the rights of our citizens. We must demonstrate resolve in the face of this infringement.

Texas Attorney General Greg Abbott is joining with several other state attorneys general to place this deal under proper scrutiny and determine if such an exclusion is unconstitutional. His office, The Honorable Bob Riley December 23, 2009 Page 2

along with mine, will continue to explore all options available to us as we attempt to minimize the damages that can be caused to Texans by this ill-advised piece of legislation.

This health care bill and its unfunded mandates are unhealthy to taxpayers, our economy and our democracy. I urge you to support the efforts of these attorneys general and ask your own to join it, and to work with me in ongoing efforts to assert the constitutional rights of states, as guaranteed under the 10th Amendment, to turn back the "one-size-fits-all" health care bill being forced through by Congress. Together we can forge a powerful effort to ensure real health care reform without having the states left holding the budgetary bag for Congress yet again.

Sincerely,

Rick Perry Governor

RICK PERRY

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